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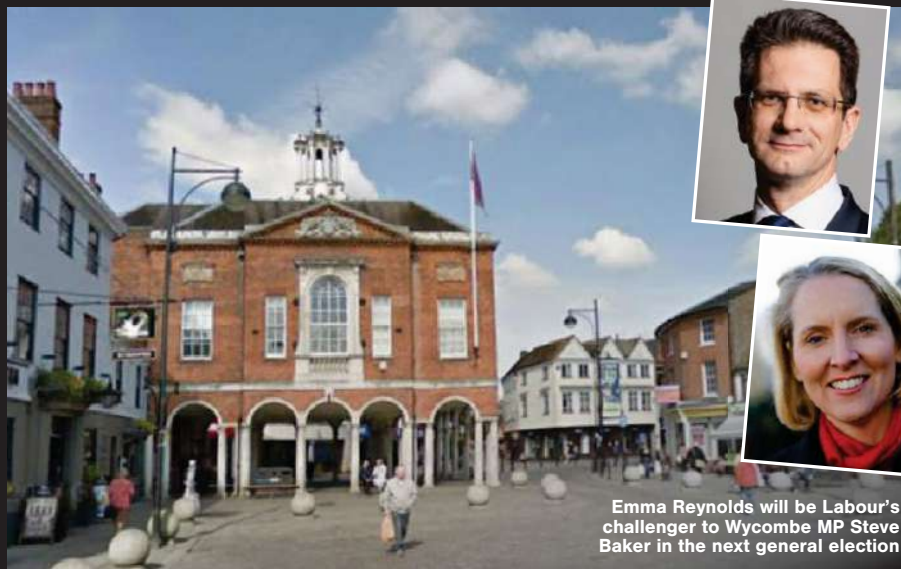
Page 11



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SPORT

J on his love for the fans

WYCOMBE Wanderers captain Joe Jacobson has praised the travelling Cardiff City supporters who made the trip to Adams Park on Saturday.

The match saw 877 Bluebird fans make their way to Buckinghamshire to celebrate the 36-year-old's 10th year with the Chairboys.

Jacobson, who was born in the Welsh capital, supported the club as a child and regularly attended games at Ninian Park.

He said: "Personally, having Cardiff City here, the team that I grew up supporting, was important for me.

"It coincided that this was a good test for us to see where we're at and it's probably a good test for Cardiff as well.

"I thought it was a competitive game but we got a lot out of it, and we've not had that test for the rest of the pre-season.

"I think it was 17 or 18 years ago that I made my debut there and that was the last time I heard them sing for me.

"Also, to do the Ayatollah for them was special.

"Being a Cardiff fan, I know how much that means to fans and players alike.

"It's been great, the support has been amazing.

"It's nice to have some of the old players back here as well and for them to celebrate what it is."

Several lessons learnt

WYCOMBE Wanderers captain Joe Jacobson has revealed that the club's win over Aldershot Town put them in good stead for their recent 0-0 friendly draw against Cardiff.

The Chairboys defeated the Shots 2-1 on July 22, seven days before they took on the Bluebirds in their final pre-season match of the summer.

He told the press at full-time: "We spoke a lot this week after the Aldershot game as we thought we conceded a few too many chances against them.

"We sat down, watched the video and went through it, and since then we've not conceded a goal.

"Clean sheets are important throughout the season and if you look at the top teams in any division, they'll have the strongest defences in the league.

"They're my bread and butter - that's what I want first and foremost from a game.

"If we don't concede then we've got a chance at winning."

Jacobson has played 377 times for Wanderers since joining in 2014.

Focusing on the season ahead



Joe Jacobson (pictured against Bristol City in August 2022) has been pleased with Wycombe's pre-season (PA)



Referee Charles Breakspear took charge of Wycombe's match against Cardiff on July 29 (Wycombe Wanderers)

WYCOMBE captain Joe Jacobson has reflected on Wanderers' pre-season results following the club's recent 0-0 draw against Cardiff City.

The stalemate versus the Bluebirds on July 29 ended the Chairboys' month of friendly fixtures which saw them win three and draw two of their non-competitive matches.

Their victories were against the Arsenal Under 21s, Aldershot Town and Wealdstone, with the two draws coming against Dagenham & Redbridge and Cardiff respectively.

On facing Cardiff in what was his testimonial game to celebrate 10 years at Adams Park, Jacobson said: "I could have easily had a Premier League U21 team turn up but the game would have been a bit of a farce.

"So I'm really grateful that Cardiff wanted to take part and I wanted it to be a competitive game.

"I found it [the game] different to what we have faced this season, a little bit like the Arsenal game at the start of the pre-season where the team like to keep possession.

"We had to sit in shape a little bit at times and be patient when we could go and try and win the ball back.

"On the ball, I thought we played out well and got into some good areas.

"As I said, the pitch probably didn't help either team, but in

By James Richings

the final third wanted to do some slick passes and things like that.

"I think it's the first day it's been available to play on it.

"These are exciting times at the minute at the club, the way the manager's recruited, the payer's he's brought in, there is a real buzz about the place and I'm excited to be a part of it."

The league season will start on August 5.

Wycombe's friendlies this summer:

July 14: Arsenal U21 0-1 Wycombe Wanderers

July 14: Hanwell 7-0 Wycombe Wanderers XI

July 18: Dagenham & Redbridge 1-1 Wycombe Wanderers

July 22: Aldershot Town 1-2 Wycombe Wanderers

July 25: Wealdstone 0-1 Wycombe Wanderers

July 29: Wycombe Wanderers 0-0 Cardiff City

July 31: Wycombe Wanderers 1-0 Maidenhead United

To read all of the latest news regarding Wycombe Wanderers, you can visit our website at www.bucksfreepress.co.uk/sport or you can follow James Richings on Twitter for more Chairboys information by going to @James_BFP.

Ref claps after brilliant goal line clearance

THE referee that took charge of Wycombe Wanderers' recent 0-0 friendly draw against Cardiff City has been spotted applauding a goal line clearance during the match.

In the final few moments of the stalemate in Joe Jacobson's testimonial fixture at Adams Park, the Chairboys nearly won the game through a late attempt from Tjay De Barr.

The Gibraltarian latched onto a loose pass from the ex-Reading man Andy Rinomhota inside the penalty area and went around Jak Alnwick in the Cardiff City goal. His goal-bound seemed destined

to give Wycombe the lead, but Dimitrios Goutas, who joined the Bluebirds from Sivasspor on a free transfer at the start of July, produced an incredible clearance to keep the scores level.

Wanderers shared the clip on Twitter and said: "A goal-line clearance so good it even had the referee applauding!

"Tjay De Barr was denied a late winner against Cardiff by some first-class defending."

The match was the final pre-season fixture for the Chairboys this summer, as they prepare to take on Exeter City in the league on Saturday.



Matt Bloomfield hopes that Wycombe could sign one or two new faces before the end the transfer window (NQ)

New faces could arrive

WYCOMBE Wanderers boss Matt Bloomfield has suggested that 'one or two' players could join the club before the end of the transfer window.

The Chairboys have so far acquired nine new faces ahead of the 2023/24 season which include Kian Breckin, Harry Boyes, Dale Taylor, and Freddie Potts on season-long loans from Manchester City, Sheffield United, Nottingham Forest and West Ham United respectively.

Other signings include goalkeeper Laurie Shala from Crystal Palace, Richard Keogh and Kane Vincent-Young from Ipswich Town, Luke Leahy from Shrewsbury Town and Joe Low from Bristol City on a permanent basis.

One of the players that Wanderers are interested in signing is Richard Kone.

The Ivorian striker has featured in several of Wycombe's pre-season games and scored in the club's 2-1 victory over Aldershot Town on July 22, seconds after coming on as a second-half substitute.

When asked if any more new faces could join Wycombe this transfer window, the 39-year-old said: "Hopefully.

"We're still working behind the scenes as there could be another one at some point or two tops.

"We're really pleased with the business we have done so far but if anyone becomes available we'll work hard to try and execute that."

New transfers explained by the boss



Matt Bloomfield (NQ)

WYCOMBE Wanderers have signed nine new players this summer and they show no signs of stopping.

It was revealed by manager Matt Bloomfield on August 2 that the Chairboys are hopeful of getting in 'one or two more' faces in before the end of the current transfer window.

It is not known if the players' pending arrivals are for the first or development team the 39-year-old, who will start his first full season as a manager this Saturday, has explained that he only signs players who are 'right' for the club.

He told the media: "We've got a lot of new faces, but it has been frustrating not to have everybody together due to injuries.

"We've had a couple of months of real hard work as we were doing a lot in the background, and it was amazing how everything came together in the space of a couple of weeks.

"We got a lot of signings through the door, so I'm really pleased about that.

"I went to watch Dale Taylor in the final week of last season against Cambridge after he scored against us in March for Burton.

"He was a pest towards us that afternoon.

"I also went and watched Kian Breckin play for the Man City U21s against the Spurs U21s at Stevenage last season to get a good look at him.

"So, we've been patient as none of the transfers were done overnight.

"Some take months of work.

"We also do background checks to make sure that we get the right person in the building to join us.

When asked if the calibre of player that he has signed were what he wanted, he said: "Certainly so.

"When you recruit, you have to be clever as you have to bring in new faces that compliment players that are already in the building.

"We have got a new group of players who are gelling into the team, but I didn't think we needed to sign so many until we had the injuries in pre-season.

"We've had to do extra business along the way, but these are challenges we face and we had a budget that we had to work with."

New boy Freddie on his Wycombe move



Freddie Potts played 75 minutes in Wycombe's 0-0 draw against Cardiff on July 29 (NQ)

WYCOMBE Wanderers midfielder Freddie Potts has revealed it was a 'no brainer' to join the club on loan from West Ham United.

The 19-year-old joined the Chairboys on a season-long loan from the Premier League side on July 28, and made his unofficial debut 24 hours later in the club's 0-0 draw at home to Cardiff City in Joe Jacobson's testimonial.

He started the final pre-season match of the summer before being substituted in the 75th minute for Jack Young.

Potts told the Free Press: "There were a couple of teams that were interested in me but once I started to speak to the gaffer, the assistant, and the staff, it was really easy for me to say yes.

"From the way it was presented, they wanted me as well which was good to know.

"It wasn't a hard decision to move, it was a no brainer.

"And as soon as I walked through the door, there was a real buzz as everyone is together.

"This is a good environment and I like to learn along the way.

"I'm relishing the chance."

Had a great chat with new boy Freddie Potts, skipper Joe Jacobson and if course, the boss Matt Bloomfield.

Before moving to Wanderers, Potts was a regular for the West Ham U21 side and also made a couple of appearances in the club's successful Europa League Conference campaign last season.

By James Richings

But he even admitted that academy matches will be a different experience to football in the third tier a challenge he is looking forward to.

He continued: "It was a bit stressful getting the move over the line as it all happened so quickly, but I heard many good things about the club, so to make my first start [against Cardiff] was great.

"Now, it's just about adjusting from playing PL2 football at West Ham to League One football at Wycombe.

"I want to find my level in League One and I wanted to come to Wycombe because of how they played, the manager and all the staff and players."

"That's put me in good stead and I'm looking forward to Exeter next week."

Manager Matt Bloomfield said: "A lot of credit goes to Richard Thomas, who has a close relationship with West Ham, including Freddie's dad Steve and also Kevin Nolan, and it's great to bring in a young lad who's highly thought of and has been around a first-team environment at a Premier League club.

"He plays with real energy and athleticism in the middle of the park and will really suit the way we want to play, so I'm excited to see how he develops throughout the season with us."

SPORT



Dennis Adenrian is not expected to sign for (PA)

Ex-midfielder and free agent unlikely to return to Adams Park

WYCOMBE Wanderers are not expected to re-sign former midfielder Dennis Adenrian this summer.

The 24-year-old, who played 22 times for the Chairboys during the 2020/21 season, is currently a free agent after being released by Sheffield Wednesday following their promotion to the Championship

in May.

Following his departure from Hillsborough after two campaigns in Yorkshire, he had been tipped to join Wanderers' League One rivals in Reading at the beginning of the transfer window, but a move to Berkshire has since fallen through.

Subsequently, there have been lukewarm talks of

him potentially returning to Adams Park in what has been a very busy summer for Matt Bloomfield's side.

Nine new players have so far been acquired by the Chairboys, but a source close to the club has revealed that the ex-Everton and Fulham man 'is not expected to re-join Wanderers.'

During his time with Sheffield Wednesday, he played 51 times and scored seven goals.

He was also an unused substitute in the club's 1-0 League One play-off final win against Barnsley, which confirmed their promotion back to the Championship after two seasons away.

Boss 'eager to see what we can do'

WYCOMBE Wanderers boss Matt Bloomfield believes this weekend's season opener against Exeter City 'will be tough' but he is 'eager' to see what his side can do.

There has been a sense of optimism surrounding Adams Park this summer following the club's rambunctious transfer activity which has seen nine new faces sign for the Chairboys.

And with this number potentially increasing before the transfer window shuts in September, along with plans to improve the stadium's atmosphere by the introduction of a signing section and the reinstatement of the drum, many Chairboys fans are excited for the season ahead.

But the 39-year-old, who coincidentally took charge of his first Wanderers match against the Grecians back in March, wants to 'manage the optimism' as 'plenty of learning will happen along the way.'

He said: "We've both had so many changes to our teams since we last played in March.

"Exeter have lost some big players like Archie Collins, Josh Kee, Jay Stansfield and Kevin McDonald, but they have replaced them with good players like Ryan Trevitt from Brentford and Tom Carroll, and we all know how good he is.

"And they were very good when we played them last season.

"They moved the ball well and had a lot of energy, especially with the way that they pressed and passed through the lines.

"So, we know it'll be a tough game to start the season.

"I watched their game against Coventry last week and I know

By James Richings

what they can bring.

"But one thing I want to work on this season is to be the best version of ourselves and if we can do that, then we'll certainly bring in the points.

"We're eager to see what we can do."

On the fans' excitement, he added: "We have to manage the optimism because I've got to manage this football club the best I possibly can.

"We have a new group and plenty of learning will happen along the way.

"We want to get off to a fast start and get points on the board and I believe we can.

"But if that doesn't happen, we will still believe in the process that we have."

Finally, on what he expects from his players this Saturday, he concluded: "Hard work, determination, resilience, togetherness, to run for the badge and being there for each other.

"Those are the basics for any football team as this is what I want to see from my boys.

"Whilst there is technical and tactical stuff we will be working on and want to execute, in terms of what I want and need to see, it's all about hard work and togetherness.

"Everything else comes off the back of it."

Bloomfield's final competitive game for Wycombe was against Exeter in August 2021, with his first home match in charge of the club also being against the Grecians.



Matt Bloomfield hopes his side can start the season off strongly (PA)



Daryl Horgan (PA)

Horgan moves back home

FORMER Wycombe Wanderers winger Daryl Horgan has joined one of his former clubs on a free transfer.

The 30-year-old has re-signed for Dundalk in the League of Ireland following the expiration of his contract at Adams Park.

He had been released by the Chairboys this summer after three years in Buckinghamshire, where he scored three goals in 101 appearances across all competitions.

One of those strikes came on his debut against Brentford in the League Cup in September 2020, where he became the first opposition player to score a competitive goal at the club's Community Stadium.

The Republic of Ireland international spent three seasons with Dundalk between 2014 and 2016, where he played 132 games and scored 27 times.

Dundalk's manager, Stephen O'Donnell, said: "It was an open secret that I would be very interested in Daryl when his contract ran down at Wycombe but there's a long way from being interested to actually getting him through the doors at Oriel Park so the owners and Brian Gartland have put in some brilliant work to get it over the line. "You could feel a bounce with the players this morning as well. I think it was a bolt from the blue.

"It was kept so quiet and just happened all of a sudden, and that had a better effect. "We're delighted to welcome the wee man back."